



CARIBBEAN-U.S. PLAN OF ACTION ON SECURITY COOPERATION

November 30, 2017

This Plan of Action will be used to:

- **Strengthen** the commitment and accountability of the Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation process at the highest levels;
- **Formulate** strategies, actions, and programs in a consistent and effective manner to advance the mandates set by the “Joint Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Partnership and the Declaration of Principles;”
- **Ensure** greater support for implementation at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels;
- **Enhance** international and inter-agency cooperation.

To counter criminal organizations, including illicit trafficking and to prevent other types of crime and violence, all of which threaten public safety, citizen security, institutional stability, and sustainable development, our Governments are committed to:

I. Substantially Reduce Illicit Trafficking

Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)

- Continue to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in the hemisphere, thereby denying funding to illicit trafficking organizations;
- Continue to attack drug trafficking and distribution networks and their enabling means within Organization of American States (OAS) member states to reduce the availability of illicit drugs;
- Sever the illicit flow across borders, of people, weapons, currency, and other illicit finance through investigations and prosecutions of key figures in Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs), as well as through the targeting of TOC networks’ enabling means and infrastructure;

- Work to expand cooperation with the United Nations as well as with Parliaments to promote ratification of, or accession to, by all states to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols within the legal framework of each participating country;
- Continue to support regional high-level and senior expert level law enforcement consultations to promote the sharing of criminal information and enhance cooperation;
- Establish a comprehensive and proactive information-sharing mechanism to identify TOC actors. Promote the sharing of information about TOC perpetrators, associates, crimes, and methodology through this mechanism;
- As appropriate, promote, support, coordinate and strengthen cooperation with international organizations such as INTERPOL to enhance law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial capacity and capability building, coordination, and collaboration leading to the disruption and dismantling of TOC networks and organizations;

Counternarcotics

- Undertake legislative reforms to enhance our governments' ability to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers;
- Establish and implement new and improved legal tools that will enhance our ability to combat drug trafficking and the diversion of precursor chemicals, including the development of additional and improved investigative techniques;
- Work actively with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) expert groups that address demand reduction, money laundering, and drug and precursor chemical trafficking in order to facilitate and increase cooperation, coordination, and information exchange in these areas;
- Advance the fight against the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related crimes by engaging states in the hemisphere on how best to advance common national security objectives;
- Improve each states' capability and capacity to enforce counternarcotics laws and deter smuggling through sharing of best practices, robust exchanges of

information, coordinated and joint operations, and the use of bilateral and multilateral agreements to eliminate safe havens for drug smugglers;

- Enhance mechanisms for training and counternarcotics coordination and operations among our nations;
- Increase communication and advance technological capacity to ensure interoperability among states' aviation and maritime authorities;
- Optimize and strengthen multi-agency detection and response capabilities by developing and sustaining air and maritime detection and monitoring, tracking, intercept, and apprehension operations to effect coordinated law enforcement interventions;
- Establish a common operating picture by developing and maintaining, within the existing architecture, a comprehensive, real-time picture of the air and maritime threats, to include an active, intelligence-driven database of suspect aircraft and maritime vessels;
- Develop greater links between JIATF-South and Caribbean law enforcement and coast guard authorities;
- Enhance, expand, and share drug-trafficking-related information systems, databases, and required agreements among states;
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to review and sign the CARICOM Agreement on the Return and/or Sharing of Recovered Assets and enact the appropriate legislation and protocols to permit use of forfeited proceeds to support law enforcement and drug rehabilitation efforts;
- Leverage existing multilateral engagements such as the Multilateral Maritime Counter Drug Summit and Multilateral Maritime Interdiction and Prosecution Summit to foster exchange of information among states on issues ranging from maritime interdiction tactics and procedures for prosecution and criminal investigations, and improve regional success in all aspects of the interdiction continuum.
- Promote awareness of the harmful effects of narcotics substances;

Illicit Trafficking in Arms/Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

- Encourage states that have not yet done so to implement the December 2007 CARICOM-U.S. Joint Statement on Combating Trafficking in Arms;
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to implement the Technical Working Group Recommendations of Experts on “Caribbean Priority Actions on Addressing Illicit Trafficking of Firearms,” September 2014;
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to implement the United Nations Program of Action and International Tracing Instrument;
- Train investigators, prosecutors, judges, and other experts to enhance the quality of firearms cases and improve conviction rates of firearms traffickers;
- Leverage technology and best practices to improve the oversight, security, and destruction of firearms, ammunition, and other related materials;
- Improve the tracking of firearms seized in connection with illicit activities, in support of investigative leads;
- Ensure full compliance by states with international and hemispheric instruments addressing the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms to which they are party;
- Make effective use of the e-Trace cooperation agreement and establish complementary measures to identify illicit traffickers and trafficking routes;
- Improve the sharing of law enforcement information on routes, organizations, and persons involved in the trafficking of such weapons;
- Sustain the capacity of states to mark firearms in order to more effectively trace and identify illegal activities through cooperation with regional and international partners;
- Establish and strengthen import and export controls, to include brokering controls, consistent with international practices, standards, and agreements;
- Enact and enforce sanctions for illicit arms brokering proliferation;

- Work within existing regional and international organizations to combat illegal trafficking in firearms, ammunition, and other related materials;

Money Laundering

- Continue working together to strengthen national, regional, and international action against money laundering and support Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), GAFISUD, the RSS Asset Recovery Unit and IMPACS to implement the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – sponsored anti-money laundering training initiatives;
- Expand cooperation on financial investigations of trafficking, terrorist financing and criminal organizations;
- Obtain international support for criminal sanctions against large-scale bulk cash smuggling;
- Enhance the capacity of investigators and prosecutors to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute money laundering, and to effectively and transparently use forfeited assets to build the capacity of the criminal justice system;

Trafficking in Persons

- Prosecute and convict organized crime groups involved in human trafficking, including those cases involving the recruitment of children for forced criminality.
- Encourage the effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children within the legal framework of each participating country;
- Enact and enforce comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that effectively criminalizes all forms of human trafficking, prescribes sufficient and stringent penalties to deter the crime, and allows for a victim-centered approach to victim identification, assistance, and participation in the judicial process;
- Develop policies to ensure that victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking;
- Enact and enforce legislation, in states that have not yet done so, to prohibit fraud in labor contracting involving national and foreign guest workers;

- Develop the appropriate mechanisms along with the relevant partners, in keeping with relevant national and international law, including human rights, to address irregular migrants and those who may be seeking asylum;
- Address the demand for child sex tourism, commercial sex, and forced labor through prevention efforts and awareness campaigns;
- Encourage continuous engagement with relevant partners to address the risks of human trafficking in global supply chains, including in public procurement;
- Promote a greater understanding of factors that make individuals vulnerable to trafficking in persons;
- Establish anti-trafficking intervention mechanisms that are victim-centered, including by building capacity for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges, and by seeking and incorporating survivor input;
- Conduct public education and information awareness campaigns promoting the use of national hotlines for reporting on trafficking in persons;
- Encourage cooperation with civil society, the private sector, and international organizations.

II. Advance Public Safety and Security

Crime and Violence

- Implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, that make up the international legal framework for fighting transnational organized crime.
- Improve capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system in order to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes while respecting human rights;
- Improve the capacity of law enforcement to secure, analyze, and use forensic evidence in criminal cases;
- Enhance mechanisms for the exchange of law enforcement information between agencies, institutions, and nations;

- Modernize criminal laws within the region to be consistent with established standards and best practices;
- Pursue reforms of national prison systems and improve rehabilitation and reintegration programs;
- Provide support for social intervention programs including community-oriented policing to improve cooperation between local law enforcement entities and citizens;
- Promote non-violent means of dispute resolution, such as mediation and problem solving;
- Implement and strengthen, as applicable, the regular recording, systematization, and analysis of reliable data and information as a process that can feed into the various stages of public and citizen security policies (design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation), provide a basis for strategic, programmatic, and operational decision-making, and offer guidelines for public and citizen security management.

Border Security

- Continue to coordinate with immigration and customs law enforcement to implement risk-based approaches to the screening of travelers and goods that improve security and facilitates legitimate travel and trade;
- Increase the number of countries that participate in the CARICOM Advance Passenger Information System, and quickly establish the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) to increase passenger and cargo targeting, and biometric monitoring at ports of entry and exit, as well as in international waters to improve identity verification capabilities;
- Review and enhance cooperative partnerships to combat drugs, weapons, and human smuggling and wildlife trafficking within the Caribbean, including the successful dismantling of criminal networks and prosecution of smugglers and traffickers;
- Support timely and actionable intelligence collection and analysis on smuggling activity to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and others who may pose a public security threat;

- Establish and implement programs to minimize the risk to key nodes, conveyances, pathways, and infrastructure in the trade and travel systems;
- Implement appropriate customs and enforcement policies to ensure effective and transparent revenue collection processes that promote economic prosperity and support government operations;
- Coordinate and expand training to mitigate the use of fraudulent documents by transnational criminal networks, organized gangs, and terrorists;
- Conduct training and capacity building among border security agencies to deter human smuggling and discourage illegal immigration, and prevent any other efforts to deliberately evade immigration laws;
- Screen all individuals intercepted in anti-smuggling operations for indicators of human trafficking;
- Strengthen the use, analysis and sharing of passenger information, particularly the use of both advance passenger information and passenger name record data as part of a risk-based approach to border screening;
- Strengthen regional data-sharing mechanisms including information on crime, immigration, customs, and known or suspected terrorists to monitor for potential threats to public security with a view toward real-time exchanges across the Caribbean region.
- Screen all passengers and cargo according to international best practices, particularly International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) standards, at points of entry using relevant technology and equipment;
- Strengthen processes for issuance of secure identity and travel documents;
- Ensure full compliance with current ICAO standards for machine readable travel document specifications and related technology;
- Develop databases to identify properly registered and flagged vessels and ownership;

- Increase cooperation on issues associated with the return of individuals ordered removed to their country of origin.

Counterterrorism

- Deny access by terrorists and violent extremists to firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related precursors;
- Conduct research to develop evidence on the presence of violent extremism in the region and adopt a regional strategy for preventing recruitment;
- Deprive violent extremists and terrorists access to the material, expertise, finance, and other enabling capabilities required to commit terrorist acts;
- Enhance information and intelligence exchanges to facilitate the flow of information, in particular, on terrorists and terrorist organizations, their movement and funding, and any other information needed to protect lives, property and the security of all modes of travel;
- Enhance and strengthen information and intelligence capabilities, strengthening aerial, land, maritime and cyber domain awareness, stopping violent extremist propaganda as well as advancing coordinated and cooperative relationships between our intelligence, security and law enforcement agencies nationally, regionally and internationally;
- Enhance the security and resilience of critical infrastructure, including those in the energy sector which can impact on all other sectors. Promote efforts to better protect vulnerable targets, such as public places, tourism infrastructures, sporting and cultural events from terrorist attacks, including through public-private partnership where appropriate;
- Prepare our responders and the community to manage and minimize the consequences of a terrorist attack, by improving capabilities to deal with: the aftermath, the coordination of the response, and the needs of victims if ever a terrorist attack occurs;
- Address the various social, economic, political and other factors, including exclusion and extremism, which engender conditions for the spread of violent extremism and which enable terrorist organizations to recruit and win support;

- Improve and share information across government agencies and with private sector actors to detect and prosecute those involved with terrorist activities and financing;
- Strengthen cooperation, including mutual legal assistance and extradition, in combating terrorism and its financing, in accordance with each nation's domestic laws and established international conventions;
- Enhance the capacity of financial intelligence units, investigators, and prosecutors to cooperate to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute the financing of terrorism;
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to accede to the international conventions on terrorism, including the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions;
- Strengthen the regulation of our banking, non-banking, and financial sectors to detect, deter and shut down funding sources for terrorists for any purpose;
- Sufficiently train financial sector employees to recognize patterns indicating possible support for terrorists or terrorist organizations;
- Employ needed resources, such as secure communications systems, to permit domestic and international communications on possible terrorist-related matters;
- Work actively with the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) and other international entities such as United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), particularly on training programs and activities to enhance capacity in the field of counterterrorism.
- Take precautionary measures to detect and prevent the use by terrorists of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) material, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Cybersecurity and Cyber Crime

- Enact laws and improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies and judicial systems to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes involving computers and the Internet;

- Strengthen cooperation, including mutual legal assistance in criminal matters involving cybercrimes and electronic evidence by joining the 24/7 High-Tech Crime Network for the preservation of electronic evidence;
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to accede to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime;
- Actively participate in regional workshops and other programs offered by the Cybercrime Working Group of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) to promote regional cooperation, share best practices, and enhance national capacity to deter, investigate, and prosecute crimes involving computers and the Internet’
- Actively participate in regional workshops and other programs offered by the CICTE to promote regional cooperation and share best practices for a national approach to cybersecurity, including developing and implementing national cyber strategies, promoting public-private cooperation, strengthening national incident management capabilities, and building an overall culture of cybersecurity;
- Advocate to public and private sector organizations the value of cybersecurity frameworks, such as the NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, as an approach to clear cybersecurity risk management communication and decision making.
- Use the vocabulary of cybersecurity frameworks, such as the NIST Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, to communicate to private sector organizations about law enforcement engagement models, anticipated activities, and expectation setting.
- Encourage states that have not yet done so to implement the CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan (November 21, 2016) and strengthen the RSS Cyber Security Lab.

Criminal Gangs

- Establish gang typology across the region and adopt a regional strategy for gang identification and diffusion;
- Conduct studies to identify the root causes of gangs and recommend solutions to address the phenomena.

- Work with multilateral organizations to coordinate and support national and regional anti-gang strategies for the Caribbean;
- Identify opportunities to conduct joint international law enforcement operations targeted against transnational criminal gangs operating in the region;
- Utilize existing channels for sharing operational law enforcement information pertinent to anti-gang activities;
- Offer assistance in the revision of laws and legislation necessary to establish an appropriate and regionally harmonized legal framework to address the gang problem.

Natural and Other Disasters

- Ensure all national plans for prevention, mitigation, and post-disaster recovery are up to date; that Caribbean security chiefs consider the security dimensions of a post-disaster situation;
- Establish early warning and response systems to protect water supplies and other critical infrastructure, mitigate damage to agriculture and threats to public health, and support the quick return of economic activities to pre-emergency levels;
- Develop and update policy and contingency plans to effectively respond to mass migration flows occurring as a result of natural or other disasters;
- Develop the research capacity of higher education institutions in the area of disaster risk reduction;
- Identify communities for disaster risk reduction programming in areas in high-risk areas for disasters, including historically vulnerable areas, areas undergoing rapid growth or slated for expansion, and areas undergoing post-disaster transition;
- Increase consultation with other donors to help prioritize geographic areas, coordinate programs, and leverage additional resources;
- Foster private sector involvement in disaster response and risk reduction activities;

- Support training programs and community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation activities with the aim of increasing public awareness and resilience;
- Prevent loss of shelter through the promotion of land use planning, land tenure situation and the development of improved building codes with national disaster organizations, including building better programs, at regional, national and community levels;
- Support coastal management agency interventions and capacity building exercises in an effort to implement flood, tsunami, and coastal hazards early warning systems;
- Strengthen hemispheric cooperation and national capacities to develop a more integrated approach to the management of natural and other disasters;
- Promote information sharing regarding hazards and potential models for mitigation and response;
- Support increased training in, and use of, technologies and information systems that allow the observation and monitoring of different natural phenomena;
- Enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts through livelihood recovery activities and revitalization of local markets and economy, in collaboration with relevant humanitarian partners and international and regional institutions;

Public Health

- Foster partnership between regional institutions in the security, social and justice clusters, relevant international partners, and academia for joint research and training, policy development and advocacy for evidence informed programs to prevent and control violence;
- Strengthen the relationship between health sector and national and regional law enforcement and border security entities to control the spread of pandemics.

III. Further Promote Social Justice

Prevention of Crime and Violence

- Develop capacity of authorities at all levels of government including law enforcement entities and communities to identify factors driving youth into criminality and violent behavior and to create multi-sectoral alliances to address these in a sustainable fashion;
- Support community efforts to combat violence and to promote early identification of youths at risk, in accordance with states' definition, and including collaboration between entities and communities and other relevant interests;
- Pursue policy reforms at the national and regional level to build community resilience to violence and expand productive opportunities for at-risk youth, such as education, employment, volunteerism, and sports;
- Assist community-based organizations and local authorities to provide vulnerable youth and at-risk populations with productive alternatives to criminality (e.g. vocational skills, job placement, training/alternative education, sports, cultural programs, drug rehabilitation);
- Cooperate with non-governmental organizations, the private sector, community service agencies, religious institutions, and the media to support national programs against drug use and other risky behaviors;
- Increase international cooperation on crime and violence prevention and reduction in order to develop a common regional strategy, to include policymakers and civil society;
- Foster partnerships at the national, regional, sub-regional, and international levels - among the public and private sectors, donors, faith-based organizations, and the Caribbean diaspora – to leverage resources to address crime and violence prevention;
- Increase information-sharing, training, and technical assistance among government and nongovernmental actors on tools and successful practices in crime and violence prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration;

- Develop an evidence base on gender-based violence in the region and adopt regional and national strategies to address the specific issues facing women and girls and other minority populations in high-violence situations;

Justice Sector Reform

- Facilitate the improvement of police organizational efficiency and effectiveness;
- Promote multi-agency collaboration and information sharing at both national and regional levels to enhance the capability of law enforcement agencies, policymakers, prosecutors, and judges;
- Equip and train the authorities and personnel of judicial, law enforcement, and penal systems;
- Improve the judicial and prosecutorial independence and impartiality of the justice sector;
- Conclude regional agreements in specified areas of mutual interest, including extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters;
- Increase efforts to protect witnesses, victims, jurors, judicial, and law enforcement personnel, their families, and facilities; and promote regional and international cooperation to address this issue in accordance with national laws.
- Facilitate improved coordination of justice sector actors to better prosecute criminal activity while defending human rights;
- Recognize the importance of access to justice in implementation of reforms, working to address the structural, security, and financial impediments to justice by the region's citizens;
- Recognize the particular importance of juvenile justice reforms, including conduct of needs-assessments, deployment of multidisciplinary approaches, and institutional strengthening to reduce pre-trial detention and increase alternatives to imprisonment and rehabilitative interventions for those imprisoned;
- Recognize and promote due process throughout the justice process to encompass law enforcement, adjudication, and corrections;

- Enhance and encourage legal aid service among young law school graduates;
- Work with other nations and with regional organizations including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to coordinate training and technical assistance efforts in this area.

Anti-Corruption

- Enhance the capacity of governments and governmental institutions to investigate and prosecute corruption;
- Ensure that progress is made in providing access for our citizens to public information, particularly on government revenues, expenditures, and budgets;
- Design and implement policy strategies for government and private institutions to create institutional incentives for greater transparency and accountability;
- Work cooperatively to improve budgeting and procurement transparency and auditing practices;
- Encourage the active involvement of citizens and civil society organizations in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of reform efforts;
- Leverage existing mechanisms, programs, and institutions to minimize corruption by increasing the use of vetted units, internal audits, and good governance practices and policies;
- Encourage among those states that have not yet done so, the ratification and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
- Encourage among those states that have not yet done so, the ratification, and effective implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption;
- Encourage the acceptance of global standards to combat corruption in police;
- Strengthen ethical codes of conduct for and enforcement of disciplinary measures against members of police forces, prosecutor offices, and the judiciary;

- Cooperate in the prosecution and/or extradition of corrupt officials and those who partake in related corruption, and where possible and appropriate, repatriate proceeds to the people affected by the corrupt acts.